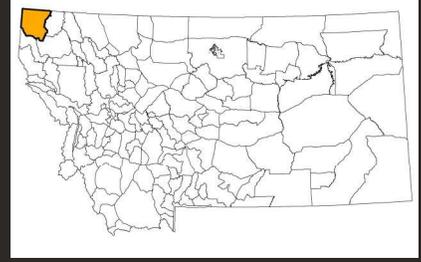


# HD 100

Size: 1,430 mi<sup>2</sup>

Primary Habitat: Forest

Public Ownership: 90%



## Purcell Elk Management Unit

### District Summary

Hunting District 100 lies in the extreme northwest corner of the state and is bounded on the north by Canada, on the west by Idaho, and on the south and east by the Kootenai River and Lake Koocanusa, respectively. The terrain is mountainous and heavily timbered, featuring some of the wettest forest habitat types in Montana. The majority of the land (1,247 mi<sup>2</sup>) is public, administered by the Kootenai National Forest. The remaining land base consists of small private holdings located primarily along the major stream corridors and corporate timber lands. The 172-acre Kootenai Falls WMA is situated along the north shore of the Kootenai River on the south side of this HD, and the 900-acre West Kootenai WMA is situated in the northeast corner of the HD, bordering Canada. Several small roadless areas include: Northwest Peaks, Buckhorn Ridge, Grizzly Peak, Roderick Mountain, and Gold Hill, which exist as scattered islands of roadless habitat. In 2022, the Mountain Lion Citizen's Committee designated HD 100 as one of five Ungulate Focal Areas in Region 1, with the overall goal of decreasing mountain lion numbers in this HD by 30 percent.

Approximately 3,000 miles of logging roads exist on the public lands in HD 100. Several hundred additional miles of road exist as private logging or county roads. Most of the National Forest System roads are closed to motorized travel either seasonally or yearlong; however, all USFS roads that are closed remain open to users via foot, horses, bicycle, or other nonmotorized means. The remaining roads are open yearlong. Parcels belonging to Stimson Lumber Company exist in the southern half of HD 100. As of 2023, the private timber company lands within this HD are enrolled in FWP's Block Management Program which allows continued hunter access. Thus, most of HD 100 remains open to public use for recreation, including big game hunting.

Most elk hunting in this HD is accomplished by driving open roads or walking roads with motor vehicle restrictions. Due to the heavily forested terrain and scattered distribution of relatively small elk herds, viewing opportunities are limited to incidental encounters. Some opportunity for viewing is available in late winter/early spring when elk congregate in open, grassy areas such as the Horse Range (along Montana Highway 37 between Libby and the Libby Dam). Hunting for shed antlers also remains a popular activity between April and May each year. Due to forest cover, aerial surveys are not conducted in this district.

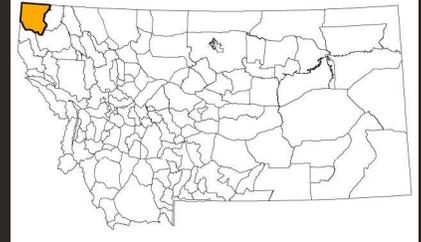
### Management Challenges:

- Developing or using a method to assess population status in this heavily forested ecosystem.
- Identifying factors limiting elk populations and distribution (e.g., habitat changes, carnivores, weather, hunting pressure, etc.).
- Evaluating changes on elk vital rates and population resulting from management actions (e.g., increased carnivore harvest, habitat improvement, permit allocation, etc.).
- Improving elk habitat (e.g., improving forage conditions) on USFS and private property.



# HD 100

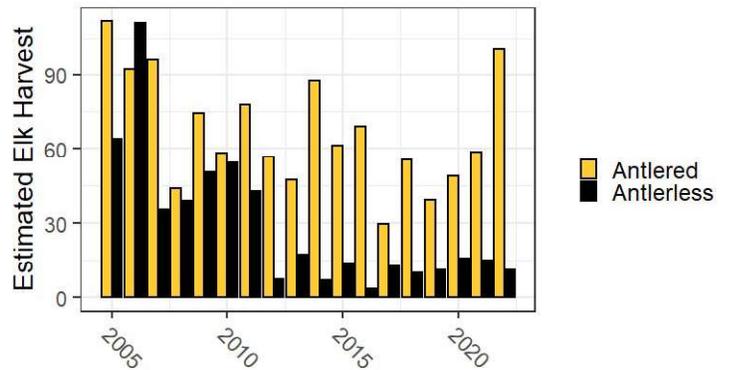
## Purcell Elk Management Unit



### Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

Hunting District	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
100	2006	2,258	18,393
	2008	2,325	20,534
	2010	2,073	17,695
	2012	1,719	15,660
	2014	1,760	15,612
	2016	1,724	15,206
	2018	1,715	14,923
	2020	1,469	15,073
	2022	1,540	13,075

Elk Harvest- HD 100

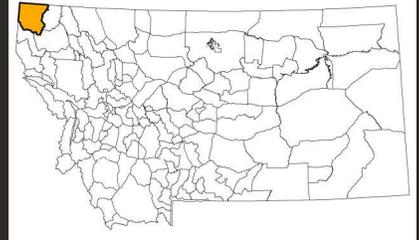


### Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Develop methodology to estimate population status and trend	The developed method accurately and efficiently determines population status, population trend, and adult survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use trail cameras and information on elk demographics to produce a population estimate</li> <li>• Use GPS collars to monitor adult female survival</li> </ul>
Maintain or increase elk population	Methodologies developed from R1 elk research and harvest information indicate a stable or increasing population trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess calf recruitment through neighboring HDs' survey efforts</li> <li>• Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> <li>• Consider adjusting carnivore harvest and monitor effects on population status and trend</li> </ul>
Maintain or increase bull elk harvest trend	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with land management agencies to improve forage capacity on public lands</li> <li>• Use antlered harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> </ul>



# HD 100



## Purcell Elk Management Unit

### Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain or increase elk use of public accessible lands	Proportion of elk observed on public or publicly accessible land stable or increasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with land management partners to promote habitat management projects that maximize the quality of forage available to elk on summer range</li> <li>• Provide input on timber management actions on public land to increase quality and quantity of forage</li> <li>• Work with public land managers to maintain or improve elk security</li> </ul>
Maintain or improve seasonal elk habitat on the Kootenai Falls and West Kootenai WMAs	Elk are observed on WMA throughout the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use GPS collars, trail cameras or other methodologies to assess elk distribution</li> <li>• Implement habitat improvement projects on the WMAs, consistent with WMA management goals and objectives</li> <li>• Work with land management agencies to identify key winter range and manage to improve habitat conditions</li> </ul>
Minimize elk use where tolerance is low	Elk use of agricultural land decreases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or</li> </ul>

### Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maximize bull hunting opportunity	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless and antlered harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structures and/or quotas</li> </ul>
Maintain a diversity of bull age classes	25% or more of bulls harvested have 6 or more points on one antler	
Provide opportunity to harvest antlerless elk	Maintain or increase antlerless elk harvest opportunity	

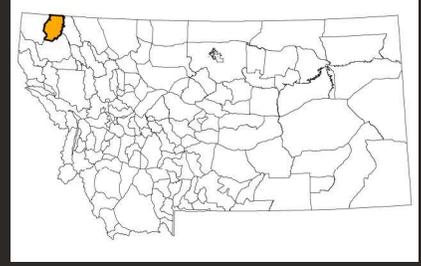


# HD 101

Size: 806 mi<sup>2</sup>

Primary Habitat: Forest

Public Ownership: 79%



## *Eureka Elk Management Unit*

### District Summary

Hunting District 101 in northwestern Montana lies east of Lake Koocanusa and adjacent to the Canadian border. Encompassing the Tobacco River and its associated watersheds, the HD includes the Galton Range and the northern portion of the Salish Mountains. The Tobacco Plains, extending southward from British Columbia (BC) to Eureka, are a low elevation grassland/ponderosa habitat that provides the best elk winter range within the HD. While livestock grazing and some agricultural production have historically been the predominant land uses within the Tobacco Plains, dramatic increases in residential development during the last decade have resulted in substantial habitat loss and fragmentation. The 1,486-acre Woods Ranch WMA is located in the northeastern foothills of the Tobacco Valley and serves as important winter range. Outside of the Tobacco Valley, the majority of the HD is Kootenai National Forest, though considerable private property exists within the Fortine and Pinkham Creek drainages. While limited research has been done on elk migration and seasonal distribution within HD 101, herds are relatively small (less than 50), scattered, and considered partially migratory. In addition, approximately 200 to 600 elk migrate from BC to the Tobacco Valley during the winter, with documented migration distances of over 80 miles.

The majority of HD 101 consists of public lands administered by the USFS within the Salish and Galton mountain ranges. Extensive historic timber harvest has occurred throughout much of the forest, with more recent management actions focused within the Wildland Urban Interface. Open road access is relatively high within the HD (85 percent of the land areas is within 1 mile or less of an open road during hunting season), though less so within the Galton Range, which includes the 14,945-acre Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area. The majority of private land associated with elk use lies within the Tobacco Valley. Access to private land has become more restrictive within the last 10 years as large ownerships have been subdivided and surrounding development has reduced the practical ability for hunters to safely harvest elk. Due to forest cover and urban development in the Tobacco Valley, aerial surveys are not conducted in this district.

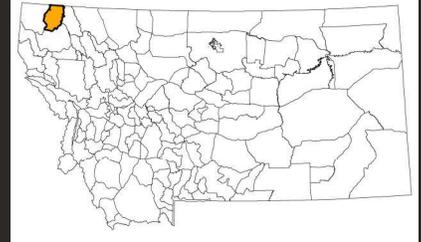
### Management Challenges:

- Developing or using a method to assess population status in this heavily forested ecosystem.
- Identifying factors limiting elk populations and distribution (e.g., habitat changes, carnivores, weather, hunting pressure, etc.).
- Evaluating changes on elk vital rates and population resulting from management actions (e.g., increased carnivore harvest, habitat improvement, permit allocation, etc.).
- Improving elk habitat (e.g., improving forage conditions) on USFS and private property.
- Maintaining opportunity within the Tobacco Valley while considering increasing safety concerns, minimizing elk game damage on agricultural lands, and public desires for antlerless opportunity and increased bull maturity.



# HD 101

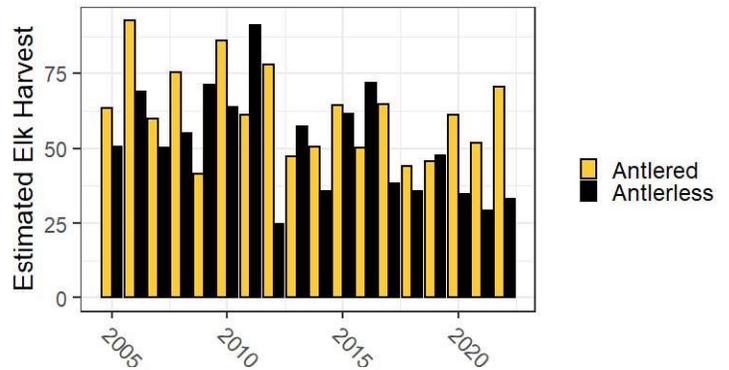
## Eureka Elk Management Unit



### Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

Hunting District	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
101	2006	1,958	15,365
	2008	1,977	18,480
	2010	1,847	16,397
	2012	1,938	16,784
	2014	1,770	15,986
	2016	1,623	13,017
	2018	1,635	13,642
	2020	1,588	14,355
	2022	1,474	11,914

**Elk Harvest- HD 101**



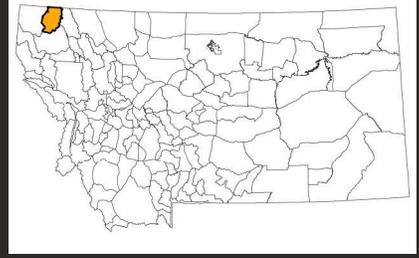
Hunter harvest and effort estimates were reconciled to current HD boundary.

### Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Develop methodology to estimate population status and trend	The developed method accurately and efficiently determines population status, population trend, and adult survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use trail cameras and information on elk demographics to produce a population estimate</li> <li>• Use GPS collars to monitor adult female survival</li> <li>• Assess calf recruitment through opportunistic ground surveys and neighboring HDs' survey efforts</li> </ul>
Maintain or increase elk population	Methodologies developed from R1 elk research and harvest information indicate a stable or increasing population trend.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> <li>• Use information obtained from current R1 elk research and harvest information to estimate population status and trend</li> <li>• Consider adjusting carnivore harvest and monitor effects on population status and trend</li> </ul>
Maintain or increase bull elk harvest trend	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with land management agencies to improve forage capacity on public lands</li> <li>• Use antlered harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure</li> </ul>



# HD 101



## Eureka Elk Management Unit

### Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain or increase elk use of public accessible lands	Proportion of elk observed on public or publicly accessible land stable or increasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with land management partners to promote habitat management projects that maximize the quality of forage available to elk on summer range</li> <li>Provide input on timber management actions on public land to increase quality and quantity of forage</li> <li>Work with public land managers to maintain or improve elk security</li> </ul>
Maintain or improve seasonal elk habitat on the Woods Ranch WMA	Elk are observed on WMA throughout the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use GPS collars, trail cameras or other methodologies to assess elk distribution</li> <li>Implement habitat improvement projects on the Woods Ranch WMA, consistent with WMA management goals and objectives</li> <li>Work with land management agencies to identify key winter range and manage to improve habitat conditions</li> </ul>
Minimize elk use where tolerance is low	Elk use of agricultural land decreases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> </ul>

### Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain a diversity of bull age classes	25% or more of bulls harvested have 6 or more points on one antler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use antlerless and antlered harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structures and/or quotas</li> </ul>
Maximize bull hunting opportunity	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above toward long-term average	
Provide opportunity to harvest antlerless elk	Maintain or increase antlerless elk harvest opportunity	

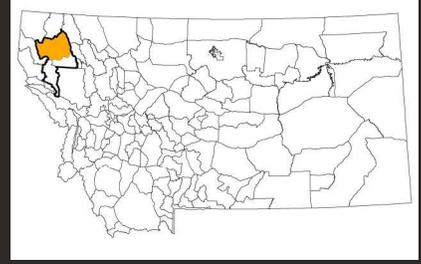


# HD 103

Size: 1,448 mi<sup>2</sup>

Primary Habitat: Forest

Public Ownership: 51%



## Salish Elk Management Unit

### District Summary

Hunting District 103 lies in northwestern Montana and encompasses the lower two-thirds of the Salish Mountain Range. The northern border starts at the intersection of Montana Highway 37 and Cripple Horse Creek and follows Cripple Horse Creek east towards Stryker, Montana. It is bounded to the east by U.S. 93, and U.S. 2 to the south and west. Bowser Lake WMA lies within this HD. A small section of the northwestern portion of HD 103 includes a mule deer permit-only area (HD 103-50, or “North Fisher portion”), where a special permit is required (along with a general deer license), to hunt antlered buck mule deer.

Extensive timber harvest has occurred throughout the area, including lands managed by the USFS and DNRC. Most lands in this HD are owned and managed by large timber corporations. There are no established wilderness areas and few large blocks of unroaded habitat. While much of this HD (84 percent) lies within 1 mile of an open road, some roads are closed to motorized access. The Thompson-Fisher CE extends into HD 103 and is the largest conservation easement in FWP’s Region 1, at over 141,000 acres.

As of early 2023, the private timber company lands within this HD are enrolled in FWP’s Block Management Program which allows continued hunter access. A conservation area (the over 38,000-acre Lost Trail Conservation Area) and a conservation easement (the 7,200-acre Lost Trail CE) encircle the Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (LTNWR), which lies in the southeast corner of this HD. The forested areas in this HD create low visibility for elk, but greater concentrations of elk occur in the Fisher, Lost Trail, and Thompson River areas. Some opportunity for viewing elk is available in late winter/early spring when they congregate in scattered open, grassy areas. Hunting for shed antlers also remains a popular activity for portions of HD 103 between April and May each year. Horn hunting is not allowed on the LTNWR.

Individual elk herds in this HD are relatively small and scattered and include both resident and migratory herds. Annual aerial recruitment surveys for elk in this HD are conducted in late winter/early spring, primarily around the LTNWR area; the Fisher River area is included when possible. Between 2011 and 2014, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe documented collared elk movement between the west side of Flathead Lake and the Tally Lake areas. Some of the movements were over 35 air-miles, and represent the first known movement of this kind in Region 1.

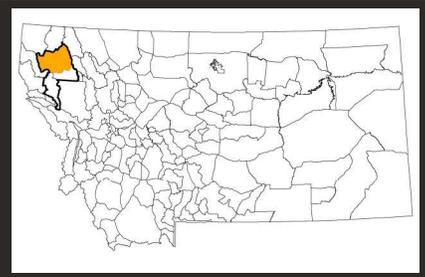
### Management Challenges:

- General difficulties in surveying elk in this HD, which make total counts from surveys inconsistent and unreliable to use for determining population trend (however calf recruitment estimates may still be useful).
- Threat of decreased elk hunting opportunity resulting from changes in land ownership.
- Developing or using a method to assess population status in this heavily forested ecosystem.
- Identifying factors limiting elk populations and distribution (e.g., habitat changes, carnivores, weather, hunting pressure, etc.).
- Evaluating changes on elk vital rates and population resulting from management actions (e.g., increased carnivore harvest, habitat improvement, permit allocation, etc.).
- Improving elk habitat (e.g., improving forage conditions) on USFS and private property.



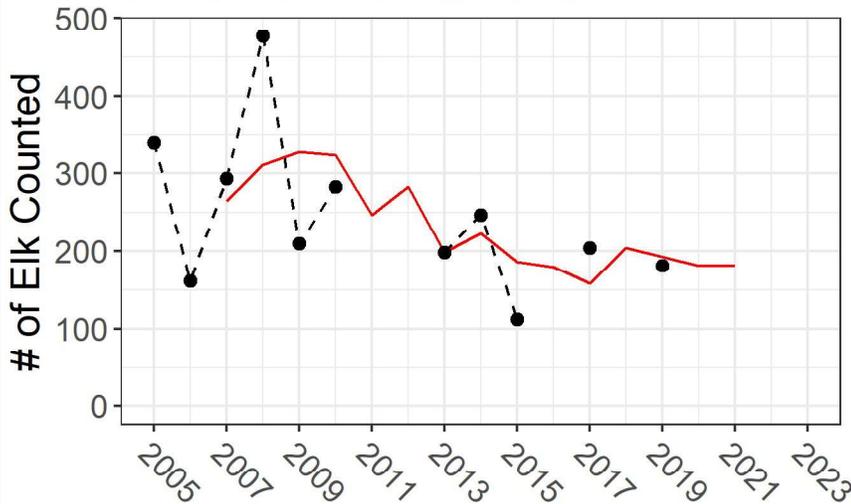
# HD 103

## Salish Elk Management Unit



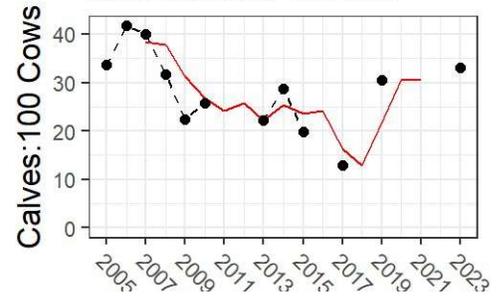
### Current Population Status & Trend

#### Total Elk Counted- HD 103

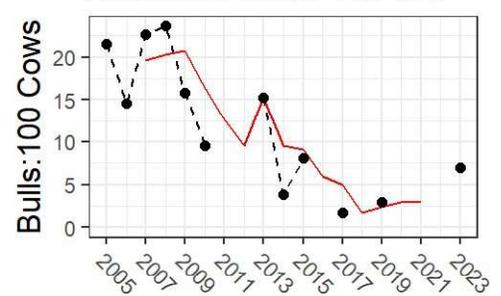


Points show observations from survey flights and the solid red line shows a 3-year moving average.

#### Recruitment- HD 103



#### Bulls:100 Cows- HD 103

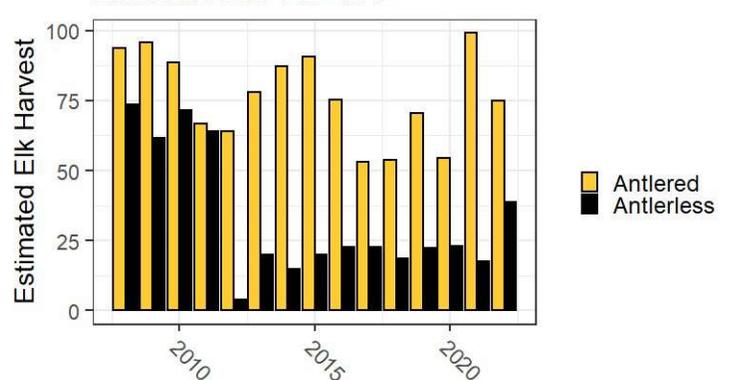


### Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

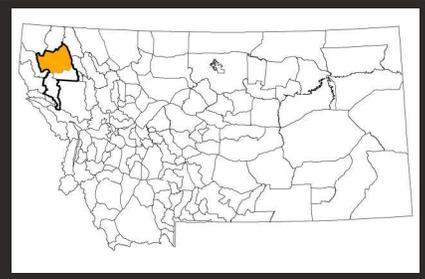
Hunting District	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
103	2008	3,786	31,671
	2010	3,435	26,593
	2012	3,181	23,735
	2014	3,032	22,171
	2016	3,241	27,832
	2018	3,118	24,459
	2020	2,578	22,722
	2022	2,737	22,224

Hunter harvest and effort estimates were reconciled to current HD boundary.

#### Elk Harvest- HD 103



# HD 103



## Salish Elk Management Unit

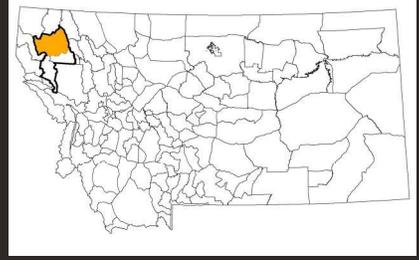
### Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Develop methodology to estimate population status and trend	The developed method accurately and efficiently determines population status, population trend, and adult survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use trail cameras and information on elk demographics to produce a population estimate</li> <li>• Use GPS collars to monitor adult female survival</li> <li>• Assess calf recruitment through the Lost Trail spring survey and neighboring HDs' survey efforts</li> </ul>
Maintain or increase elk population	3-year average calf recruitment is 25 calves:100 cows or greater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> <li>• Consider adjusting carnivore harvest and monitor effects on elk population status and trend</li> <li>• Work with land management agencies to improve forage capacity on public lands</li> </ul>
	Methodology developed from R1 elk research and harvest information indicate a stable or increasing population trend	
Maintain or increase bull elk harvest trend	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlered harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> </ul>



# HD 103

## Salish Elk Management Unit



### Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain or increase elk use of public accessible lands	Proportion of elk observed on public or publicly accessible land stable or increasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with land management partners to promote habitat management projects that maximize the quality of forage available to elk on summer range</li> <li>• Provide input on timber management actions on public land to increase quality and quantity of forage</li> <li>• Work with stakeholders to maintain or improve elk security, including addressing impacts of recreation on elk range</li> <li>• Use FWP's urban planning guidelines to improve and mitigate impacts to elk winter range</li> </ul>

### Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain a diversity of bull age classes	25% or more of bulls harvested have 6 or more points on one antler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless and antlered harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> </ul>
Maximize bull hunting opportunity	5-year bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	
Provide opportunity to harvest antlerless elk	Maintain or increase antlerless elk harvest opportunity	

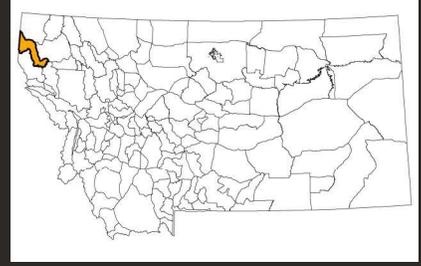


# HD 104

Size: 755 mi<sup>2</sup>

Primary Habitat: Forest

Public Ownership: 78%



## Cabinet Elk Management Unit

### District Summary

Hunting District 104 lies along the Montana-Idaho border in northwestern Montana and includes the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness and the proposed Scotchman Peak Wilderness. Most of this HD consists of USFS lands but includes a relatively small amount (under 10 percent) of private lands including scattered private timber parcels. A small portion of the Bull River WMA exists around Noggle Creek, on the southwest side of HD 104. Much of HD 104 is characterized by the rugged Cabinet Mountains and includes strong elevational gradients and heavy forest cover.

Some of the private timber company lands in HD 104 are enrolled in the Kootenai Valleys CE where public access has been granted in perpetuity. As of 2023, the majority of private timber company lands in HD 104 are enrolled in FWP's Block Management Program which allows continued hunter access. Most of the National Forest System roads in HD 104 are closed to motorized travel either seasonally or yearlong; however, all USFS roads that are closed remain open to users via foot, horses, bicycle, or other nonmotorized means. The remaining roads are open yearlong. Thus, most of the area is open to public use for recreation, including big game hunting. Elk hunting in this HD is generally accomplished by walking roads with motor vehicle restrictions. Due to the heavily forested terrain and scattered distribution of elk, viewing opportunities can be limited to incidental encounters. Historic elk winter range productivity is in decline due to conifer encroachment and aging shrub fields. Due to forest cover, aerial surveys are not conducted in this district.

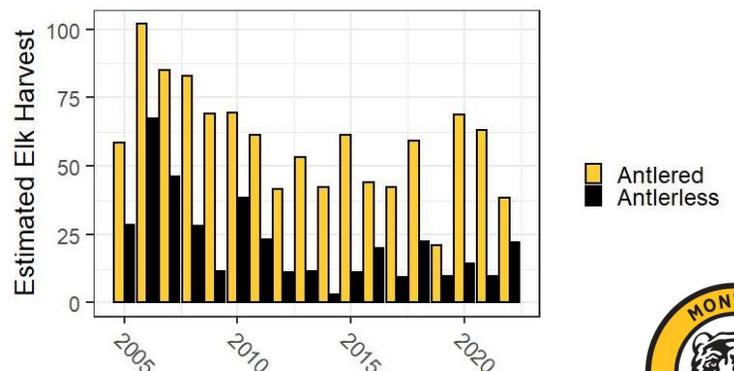
### Management Challenges:

- Developing or using a method to assess population status in this heavily forested ecosystem.
- Evaluating changes on elk vital rates and population resulting from management actions (e.g., increased carnivore harvest, habitat improvement, permit allocation, etc.).
- Improving elk habitat (e.g., improving forage conditions) on USFS and private property.
- Identifying factors limiting elk populations and distribution (e.g., habitat changes, carnivores, weather, hunting pressure, etc.).

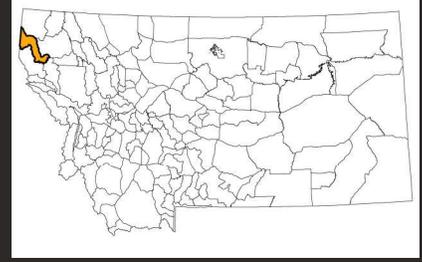
### Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

Hunting District	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
104	2006	1,341	10,780
	2008	1,543	14,157
	2010	1,290	11,736
	2012	1,169	10,058
	2014	1,197	10,577
	2016	1,121	9,394
	2018	1,100	9,563
	2020	957	8,908
	2022	816	6,767

Elk Harvest- HD 104



# HD 104



## Cabinet Elk Management Unit

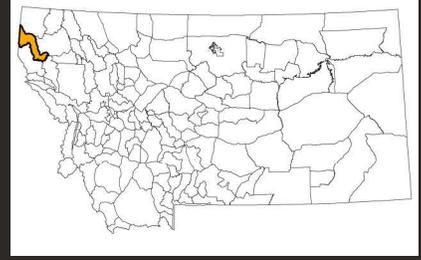
### Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Develop methodology to estimate population status and trend	The developed method accurately and efficiently determines population status, population trend, and adult survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use trail cameras, information on elk demographics, and results from Noxon Elk Research Project to produce a population estimate</li> <li>• Assess calf recruitment through neighboring HDs survey efforts</li> <li>• Use GPS collars to monitor adult female survival</li> </ul>
Maintain or increase elk population	Methodologies developed from R1 elk research and harvest information indicate a stable or increasing population trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> <li>• Consider adjusting carnivore harvest and monitor effects on population status and trend</li> </ul>
Maintain or increase bull elk harvest trend	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with land management agencies to improve forage capacity on public lands</li> <li>• Use antlered harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> </ul>



# HD 104

## Cabinet Elk Management Unit



### Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain or increase elk use of public accessible lands	Proportion of elk observed on public or publicly accessible land stable or increasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with land management partners to promote habitat management projects that maximize the quality of forage available to elk on summer range</li> <li>• Provide input on timber management actions on public land to increase quality and quantity of forage</li> <li>• Work with public land managers to maintain or improve elk security</li> <li>• Use GPS collars, trail cameras or other methodologies to assess elk distribution</li> </ul>
Maintain or improve seasonal elk habitat on the Bull River WMA	Elk are observed on WMA throughout the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement habitat improvement projects on the Bull River WMA, consistent with WMA management goals and objectives</li> <li>• Work with land management agencies to identify key winter range and manage to improve habitat conditions</li> </ul>
Minimize elk use where tolerance is low	Elk use of agricultural land decreases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or</li> </ul>

### Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maximize bull hunting opportunity	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless and antlered harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structures and/or quotas</li> </ul>
Maintain a diversity of bull age classes	25% or more of bulls harvested have 6 or more points on one antler	
Provide opportunity to harvest antlerless elk	Maintain or increase antlerless elk harvest opportunity	

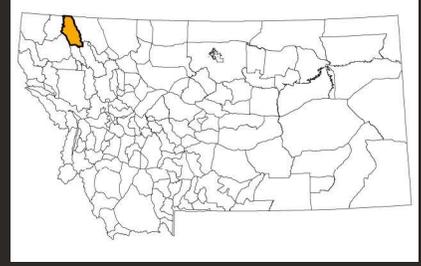


# HD 110

Size: 794 mi<sup>2</sup>

Primary Habitat: Forest

Public Ownership: 86%



## Whitefish Elk Management Unit

### District Summary

Hunting District 110 in northwestern Montana encompasses the Whitefish Range from Columbia Falls to the Canadian border. The North Fork of the Flathead River serves as the HD's eastern boundary and is shared with Glacier National Park (GNP). The Stillwater River and U.S. 93 compose the western boundary. Most of this area is administered by the Flathead National Forest, though substantial area is also administered by the DNRC (Stillwater and Coal Creek state forests) and private timber companies. Private property is scattered along the North Fork River corridor, and predominantly along the southern extent of the range where there has been substantial urban development surrounding the communities of Whitefish and Columbia Falls. While most elk within the HD are considered migratory, with documented movements into Canada and GNP, elk migration and seasonal distribution within the HD are relatively understudied. Due to forest cover, aerial surveys are not conducted in this district.

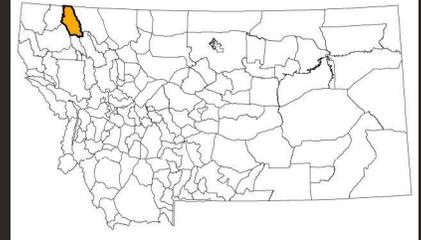
Approximately 86 percent of HD 110 is public land managed by the USFS and DNRC. Most major drainages within the HD contain at least one road open to motorized use and provide access for hunters and other members of the public. Open road density has been reduced in this HD in response to Endangered Species Act concerns for grizzly bear security, resulting in increased security for elk and other wildlife species. While 68 percent of the HD is within 1 mile of an open road during hunting season, the difficulty of the terrain, combined with relatively low elk densities, results in challenging elk hunting opportunity. Private property makes up approximately 14 percent of the HD, mostly within the low-elevation riparian corridors and southern portion of the HD, where the Whitefish Range adjoins the Flathead Valley. These areas provide important wintering ranges for elk and other wildlife, though they have experienced significant changes associated with the expanding urbanization of the Flathead Valley. Approximately 10,022 acres of private timber land owned by F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Co. are held under working forest CEs within the Haskill and Trumbull basins and available for public recreation.

### Management Challenges:

- Developing or using a method to assess population status in this heavily forested ecosystem.
- Identifying factors limiting elk populations and distribution (e.g., habitat changes, carnivores, weather, hunting pressure, etc.).
- Evaluating changes on elk vital rates and population resulting from management actions (e.g., increased carnivore harvest, habitat improvement, permit allocation, etc.).
- Improving elk habitat (e.g., improving forage conditions) on USFS and private property.
- An unknown proportion of elk that use seasonal ranges in Canada and GNP may not be influenced by management actions within the HD.
- Increasing urban development of low-elevation winter and transitional seasonal ranges and associated impacts of higher levels of year-round recreation.



# HD 110

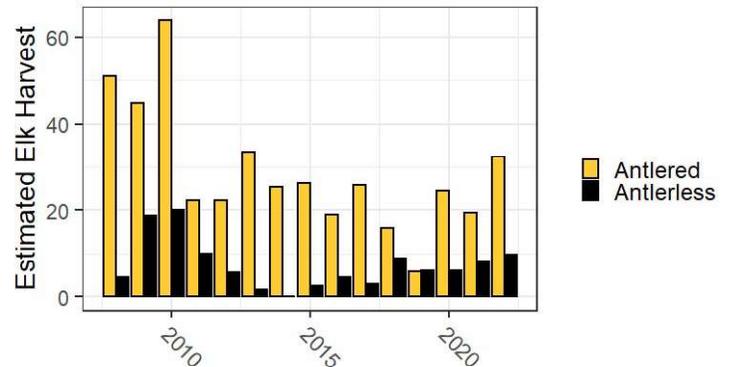


## Whitefish Elk Management Unit

### Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

Hunting District	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
110	2008	1,096	7,820
	2010	1,161	7,866
	2012	981	6,460
	2014	844	6,069
	2016	930	6,247
	2018	634	4,766
	2020	607	4,210
	2022	685	5,280

Elk Harvest- HD 110

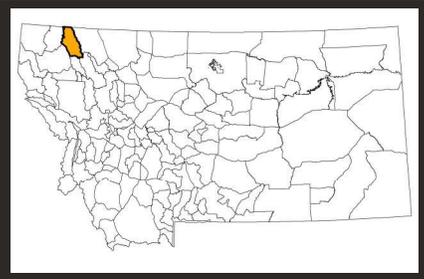


### Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Develop methodology to estimate population status and trend	The developed method accurately and efficiently determines population status, population trend, and adult survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use trail cameras and information on elk demographics to produce a population estimate</li> <li>• Use GPS collars to monitor adult female survival</li> <li>• Assess calf recruitment through Big Prairie (GNP) spring ground survey and neighboring HDs' survey efforts</li> </ul>
Maintain or increase elk population	Methodologies developed from R1 elk research and harvest information indicate a stable or increasing population trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> <li>• Consider adjusting carnivore harvest and monitor effects on elk populations status and trend</li> </ul>
Maintain or increase bull elk harvest trend	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with land management agencies to improve forage capacity and winter range on public lands</li> <li>• Use antlered harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> </ul>



# HD 110



## Whitefish Elk Management Unit

### Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain or increase elk use of publicly accessible lands	Proportion of elk observed on public or publicly accessible lands is stable or increasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with land management partners to promote habitat management projects that maximize the quality of forage available to elk on summer range</li> <li>• Collaborate with user groups, private landowners, and land management agencies to minimize the impacts of recreation on elk habitat</li> <li>• Provide input on timber management actions on public land to increase quality and quantity of forage</li> <li>• Work with public land managers to maintain or improve elk security</li> <li>• Use FWP's urban planning guidelines to improve and mitigate impacts to elk winter range</li> <li>• Promote habitat management projects that include snow intercept canopy cover and forage on winter range</li> <li>• Use GPS collars, trail cameras, or other methodologies to assess elk distribution</li> </ul>

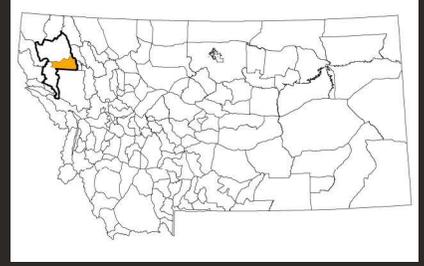
### Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain a diversity of bull age classes	25% or more of bulls harvested have 6 or more points on one antler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless and antlered harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structures and/or quotas</li> </ul>
Maximize bull hunting opportunity	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	
Provide opportunity to harvest antlerless elk	Maintain or increase antlerless elk harvest opportunity	



# HD 120

Size: 493 mi<sup>2</sup>  
 Primary Habitat: Forest  
 Public Ownership: 27%



## Salish Elk Management Unit

### District Summary

Hunting District 120 is in northwest Montana within Flathead and Lincoln counties and lies just southwest of Kalispell. The HD is roughly bounded by U.S. 2 to the north, Thompson River Road to the west, Flathead Indian Reservation to the south, and the Flathead Lake and U.S. 93 to the east. The unit encompasses over 315,000 acres (493 mi<sup>2</sup>) and includes portions of the Flathead, Kootenai, and Lolo National Forests; State Trust Land; corporate timber lands; and private property. The area is forest-dominated, though extensive timber harvesting has occurred throughout. Topography is rolling to steep, and the district includes the southern portion of the Salish Mountains. Individual elk herds in this HD are relatively small and scattered and include both resident elk and migratory herds that travel through the district north to south. Due to forest cover, aerial surveys are not conducted in this district.

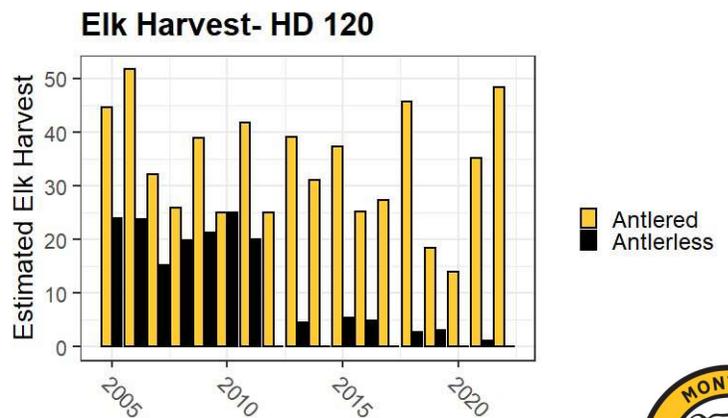
The HD consists of USFS (19 percent), State Trust Land (6 percent) and private land (72 percent). An extensive road and trail network provides access to much of the unit. Where road closures are maintained, elk can find security, but large blocks (more than 5,000 acres) of roadless habitat are uncommon. Access to much of the HD is reliant upon the generosity of private landowners and their continued participation in FWP's Block Management Program.

### Management Challenges:

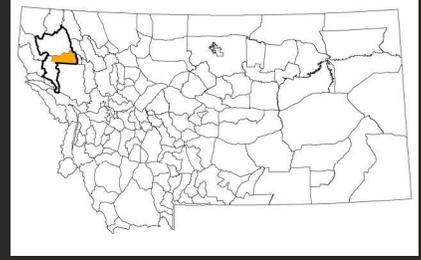
- Adequately surveying the HD due to dense forest cover.
- Developing an effective survey methodology for forested landscapes.
- Evaluating changes on elk vital rates, population status and trajectory, or response to management actions (e.g., increased carnivore harvest, habitat improvement).
- Open road density limits elk security in much of this district.

### Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

Hunting District	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
120	2006	1,093	8,307
	2008	1,134	9,082
	2010	1,143	8,409
	2012	1,093	7,952
	2014	1,055	8,065
	2016	1,240	10,052
	2018	1,171	9,118
	2020	984	8,196
	2022	1,075	7,386



# HD 120



## Salish Elk Management Unit

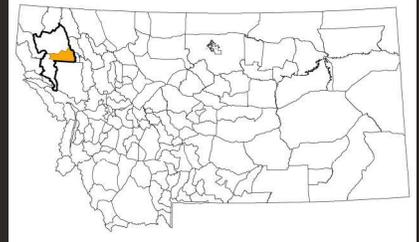
### Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Develop methodology to estimate population status and trend	The developed method accurately and efficiently determines population status, population trend, and adult survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use trail cameras and information on elk demographics to produce a population estimate</li> <li>• Use GPS collars to monitor adult female survival</li> </ul>
Maintain or increase elk population	Methodologies developed from R1 elk research and harvest information indicate a stable or increasing population trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess calf recruitment through neighboring HDs' survey efforts</li> <li>• Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> <li>• Consider adjusting carnivore harvest and monitor effects on elk vital rates</li> </ul>
Maintain or increase bull elk harvest trend	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with land management agencies and private landowners to improve forage capacity on public and private lands</li> <li>• Use antlered harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> </ul>



# HD 120

## Salish Elk Management Unit



### Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain elk distribution across landownerships throughout the year	Proportion of elk observed on public or publicly accessible land stable or increasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with land management partners to promote habitat management projects that maximize the quality of forage available to elk on summer range</li> <li>• Provide input on timber management actions on public land to increase quality and quantity of forage</li> <li>• Work with stakeholders to maintain or improve elk security</li> <li>• Work with land management agencies and private landowners to identify key winter range and manage to improve habitat conditions</li> </ul>
Minimize elk where tolerance is low	Elk use of agricultural land decreases	

### Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain a diversity of bull age classes	25% or more of bulls harvested have 6 or more points on one antler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless and antlered harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structures and/or quotas</li> </ul>
Maximize bull hunting opportunity	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	
Provide opportunity to harvest antlerless elk	Maintain or increase antlerless elk harvest opportunity	

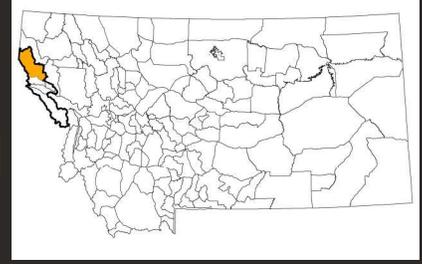


# HD 121

Size: 976 mi<sup>2</sup>

Primary Habitat: Forest

Public Ownership: 83%



## Lower Clark Fork Elk Management Unit

### District Summary

Hunting District 121 is in the northwest portion of the state within Sanders County. The western boundary of the unit is the Montana/Idaho border, the northern boundary is the Sanders/Lincoln county line, the eastern boundary is the western boundary of the Plains/Thompson Falls district of the Lolo National Forest, the southwestern boundary is the Thompson River, and the southern boundary is primarily the Kootenai/Lolo National Forest boundary. Running through the center of the unit is the Clark Fork River. Towns within this unit are Thompson Falls, Trout Creek, Noxon, and Heron. The northern portion of the unit contains most of the 1,576-acre Bull River WMA and the southern end of the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness. The Mount Silcox WMA (1,552 acres) is in the southeastern portion of the HD. Primary drainages include Elk Creek, Pilgrim Creek, Marten Creek, Trout Creek, Big/Little Beaver creeks, Vermillion Creek, Graves Creek, Swamp Creek, and the Bull River. The unit is characterized as rugged with strong elevational gradients and an abundance of forest cover.

This HD is primarily public land (about 83 percent) with only 0.1 percent considered inaccessible from either a public road or waterway. Many access points via roads and trails exist throughout the predominantly USFS administered land (Kootenai and Lolo). Additionally, 72 percent of the unit is within 1 mile of open roads during hunting season. Two large companies, Stimson Lumber and Avista Corporation, participate in Block Management in this unit, providing additional hunting opportunities. Much of the lower-elevation Clark Fork River valley is privately owned and heavily used by elk in winter. Recently, increased development via subdividing has occurred in elk wintering areas. Annual surveys via helicopter occur in the spring to assess recruitment.

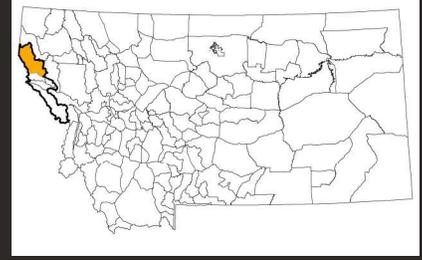
### Management Challenges:

- More precisely assessing population status in this heavily forested ecosystem.
- Identifying factors limiting elk populations and distribution (e.g., habitat changes, carnivores, weather, hunting pressure, etc.) to better manage the population and meet hunter demands for increased elk numbers.
- Evaluating changes on elk vital rates and population resulting from management actions (e.g., increased carnivore harvest, habitat improvement, permit allocation, etc.).
- Improving elk habitat (e.g., improving forage conditions) on USFS and private property.



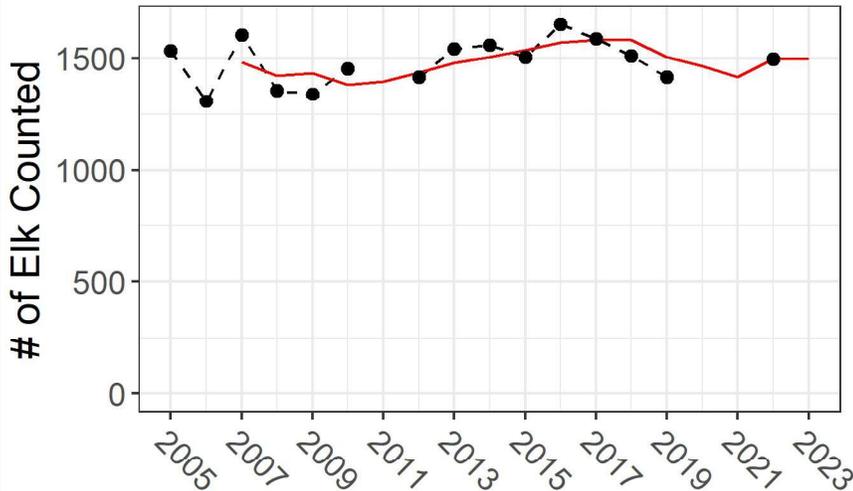
# HD 121

## Lower Clark Fork Elk Management Unit



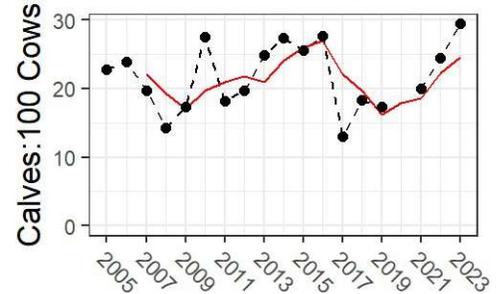
### Current Population Status & Trend

#### Total Elk Counted- HD 121

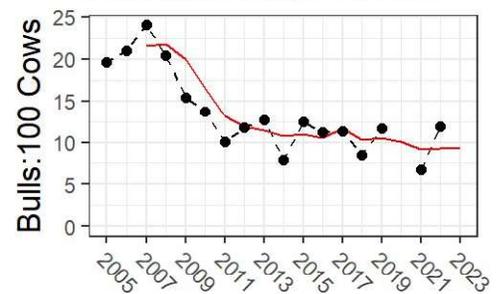


Points show observations from survey flights and the solid red line shows a 3-year moving average.

#### Recruitment- HD 121



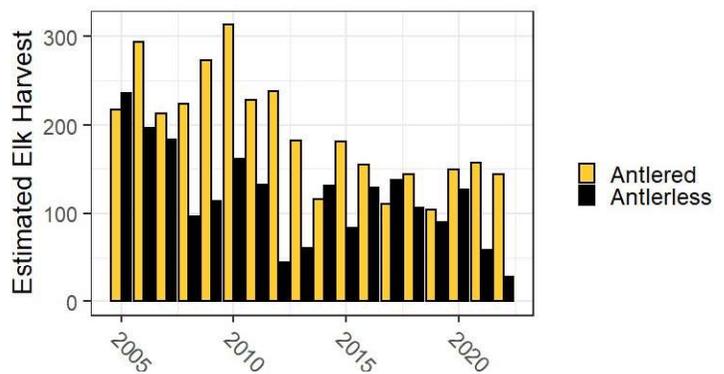
#### Bulls:100 Cows- HD 121



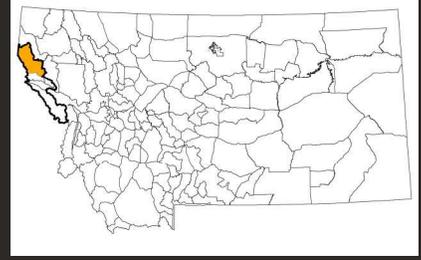
### Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

Hunting District	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
121	2006	2,694	21,552
	2008	2,959	26,260
	2010	2,822	25,806
	2012	2,681	23,708
	2014	2,585	23,636
	2016	2,634	24,434
	2018	2,155	20,310
	2020	2,005	20,323
	2022	1,964	16,562

#### Elk Harvest- HD 121



# HD 121



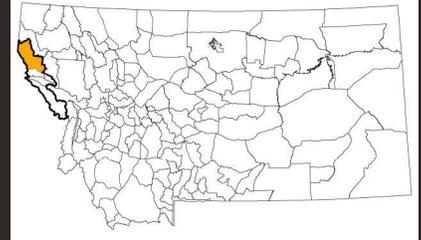
## Lower Clark Fork Elk Management Unit

### Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain spring aerial survey counts between 1,350-1,890 elk observed	3-year average of elk counts is within goal range for population size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> <li>• Consider adjusting carnivore harvest and monitor effects on population status and trend</li> <li>• Assess calf recruitment through annual surveys</li> <li>• Use GPS collars to monitor adult female survival</li> </ul>
	If outside goal range, population is trending toward goal range	
	3-year average calf recruitment is 25 calves:100 cows or greater	
	Methodologies developed from R1 elk research and harvest information indicate population is trending toward goal range	
Bull:cow ratio is 10:100 or greater	3-year average bull:cow ratio is meeting or exceeding minimum bull:cow threshold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use results of Noxon elk project to evaluate cow and calf elk survival and incorporate into a population estimate</li> </ul>
Develop methodology to estimate population status and trend	The developed method accurately and efficiently determines population status, population trend, and adult survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use trail cameras and information from the Noxon elk project to produce a</li> </ul>



# HD 121



## Lower Clark Fork Elk Management Unit

### Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain or increase elk use of public accessible lands	Elk continue to use public and private land with available habitat throughout the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote habitat management projects that maximize the quality of forage available to elk on summer range</li> <li>Provide input on timber management actions on public land to increase quality and quantity of forage</li> <li>Work with stakeholders to maintain or improve elk seasonal habitat to improve elk use of public lands and address impacts of recreation on elk distribution</li> </ul>
Maximize elk use of Mt. Silcox and Bull River WMAs	Elk are observed on WMAs during the winter months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement winter range habitat improvement projects on the WMAs</li> <li>Work with land management agencies to identify key winter range and manage to improve habitat conditions</li> <li>Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> </ul>
Reduce elk use where tolerance is low	Elk use of agricultural land in the fall and winter decreases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a season type that accommodates elk harvest on private land</li> </ul>

### Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maximize bull hunting opportunity	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use antlerless and antlered harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structures and/or quotas</li> </ul>
Maintain a diversity of bull age classes	25% or more of bulls harvested have 6 or more points on one antler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider adjusting carnivore harvest and monitor effects on population status and trend</li> </ul>
Provide opportunity to harvest antlerless elk	Maintain or increase antlerless elk harvest opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with land management agencies to improve habitat</li> </ul>

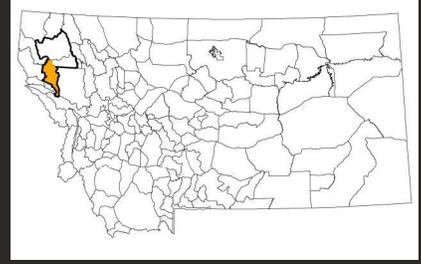


# HD 122

Size: 713 mi<sup>2</sup>

Primary Habitat: Forest

Public Ownership: 54%



## *Salish Elk Management Unit*

### District Summary

Hunting District 122 is in the northwest part of the state primarily within Sanders County. The western boundary is a combination of the Sanders/Lincoln county line, western boundary of the Plains/Thompson Falls district of the Lolo National Forest, and the Thompson River. The southwestern boundary is the Clark Fork River, the southern boundary is the Sanders/Mineral county line, the eastern boundary is the western border of the Flathead Indian Reservation, and the northern boundary is U.S. Highway 2. Within this unit are the towns of Plains and Paradise. From west to east along the Clark Fork is the Bighorn Viewing Site (50 acres), Round Horn WMA (27 acres), and Full Curl WMA (440 acres), of which Full Curl is most used by elk. The district contains parts of the Thompson Lakes, and primary drainages include the Thompson River, Twin Lakes Creek, Little Thompson River, Twin Lakes Creek, Fishtrap Creek, Big Rock Creek, Lynch Creek, Henry Creek, McLaughlin Creek, Seigel Creek, and Robertson Creek. The unit is characterized as rugged with strong elevational gradients and an abundance of forest cover.

Approximately half of this HD is public land administered by the Lolo National Forest with only 8.8 percent considered inaccessible from either a public road or waterway. Additionally, a large portion of private land owned by timber companies (primarily Green Diamond Resource Company, 142,794 acres) is open to hunting via conservation easements and/or FWP's Block Management Program. There are many roads and trails throughout this HD, with 81 percent of the unit within 1 mile of open roads during hunting season.. Much of the land along the Clark Fork is private and some elk use this area, primarily in the winter. Recently, increased development via subdividing has occurred in elk wintering areas. Due to forest cover, aerial surveys are not conducted in this district.

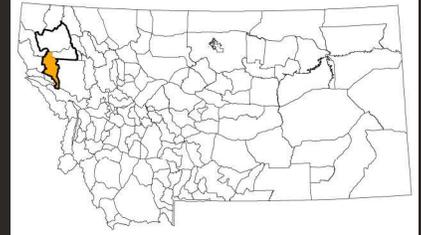
### Management Challenges:

- Developing or using a method to assess population status in this heavily forested ecosystem.
- Identifying factors limiting elk populations and distribution (e.g., habitat changes, carnivores, weather, hunting pressure, etc.).
- Evaluating changes on elk vital rates and population resulting from management actions (e.g., increased carnivore harvest, habitat improvement, permit allocation, etc.).
- Improving elk habitat (e.g., improving forage conditions) on USFS and private property.



# HD 122

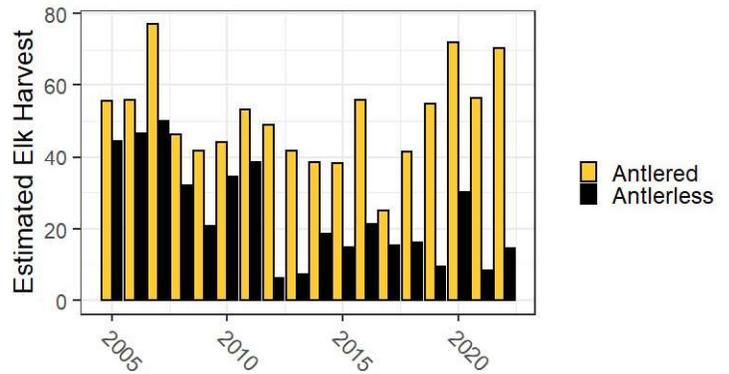
## Salish Elk Management Unit



### Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

Hunting District	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
122	2006	1,464	11,042
	2008	1,662	12,871
	2010	1,305	10,566
	2012	1,504	11,587
	2014	1,511	11,811
	2016	1,659	12,842
	2018	1,420	11,755
	2020	1,418	13,245
	2022	1,433	11,606

Elk Harvest- HD 122



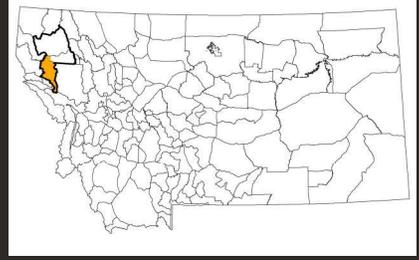
### Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Develop methodology to estimate population status and trend	The developed method accurately and efficiently determines population status, population trend, and adult survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use trail cameras and information on elk demographics to produce a population estimate</li> <li>• Use GPS collars to monitor adult female survival</li> <li>• Assess calf recruitment through neighboring HDs' survey efforts</li> </ul>
Maintain or increase elk population	Methodologies developed from R1 elk research and harvest information indicate a stable or increasing population trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> <li>• Consider adjusting carnivore harvest and monitor effects on population status and trend</li> </ul>
Maintain or increase bull elk harvest trend	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with land management agencies to improve forage capacity on public lands</li> <li>• Use antlered harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> </ul>



# HD 122

## Salish Elk Management Unit



### Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain or increase elk use of public accessible lands	Proportion of elk observed on public or publicly accessible land stable or increasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with land management partners to promote habitat management projects that maximize the quality of forage available to elk on summer range</li> <li>• Provide input on timber management actions on public land to increase quality and quantity of forage</li> </ul>
Minimize elk use where tolerance is low	Elk use of agricultural land decreases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use GPS collars, trail cameras or other methodologies to assess elk distribution</li> <li>• Work with stakeholders to maintain or improve elk security, including addressing impacts of recreation on elk range</li> <li>• Work with land management agencies to identify key winter range and manage to improve habitat conditions</li> </ul>

### Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain a diversity of bull age classes	25% or more of bulls harvested have 6 or more points on one antler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless and antlered harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structures and/or quotas</li> </ul>
Maximize bull hunting opportunity	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term	
Provide opportunity to harvest antlerless elk	Maintain or increase antlerless elk harvest opportunity	

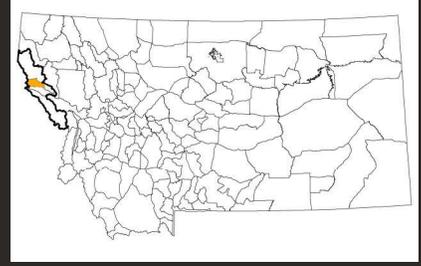


# HD 123

Size: 244 mi<sup>2</sup>

Primary Habitat: Forest

Public Ownership: 90%



## Lower Clark Fork Elk Management Unit

### District Summary

Hunting District 123 is in the northwest part of the state within Sanders County. The western boundary is the Montana/Idaho state line, the southern boundary is the Sanders/Mineral county line, and the eastern boundary runs approximately through Cherry Peak, Eddy Mountain, and along Outlaw Creek. The northern boundary is approximately Montana Highway 200. Thompson Falls is partly within this unit. Primary drainages include Prospect Creek, Clear Creek, Cherry Creek, Wilkes Creek, and Dry Creek. The unit is characterized as rugged with strong elevational gradients and an abundance of forest cover. Collaring studies from the late 1980s revealed that some cow elk wintering in HD 123 migrate to higher elevation summer range in HD 200. Migratory corridors between and among these two districts are important supporting elements of the life history strategy of elk in this area.

This HD is primarily public land (about 90 percent) administered by the Lolo National Forest and contains a moderate number of roads and trails, with less than 0.1 percent considered inaccessible from either a public road or waterway. Additionally, 90 percent of the unit is within 1 mile of open roads during hunting season. Much of the land along the Clark Fork is private and some elk use this area, primarily in the winter. Recently, increased development via subdividing has occurred in elk wintering areas. Annual surveys via helicopter occur in the spring to assess recruitment.

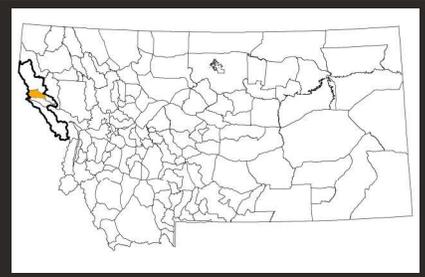
### Management Challenges:

- Assessing population status in this heavily forested ecosystem.
- Identifying factors limiting elk populations and distribution (e.g., habitat changes, carnivores, weather, hunting pressure, etc.).
- Evaluating changes on elk vital rates and population resulting from management actions (e.g., increased carnivore harvest, habitat improvement, permit allocation, etc.).
- Improving elk habitat (e.g., improving forage conditions) on USFS and private property.



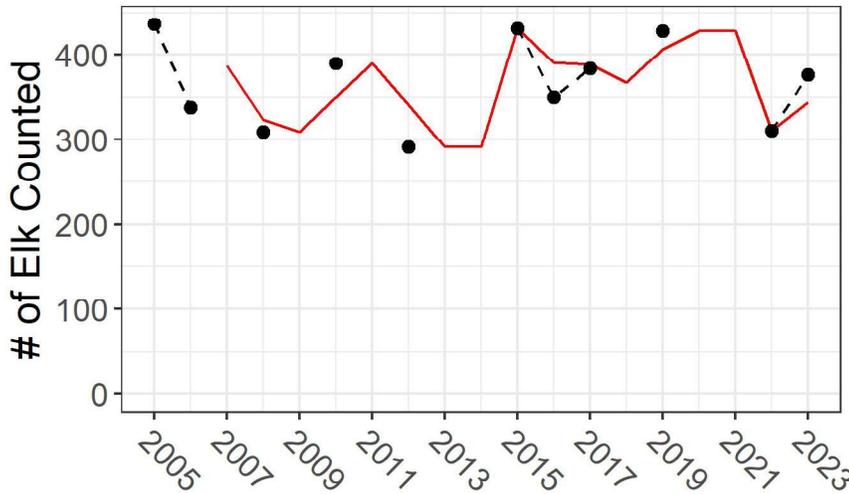
# HD 123

## Lower Clark Fork Elk Management Unit



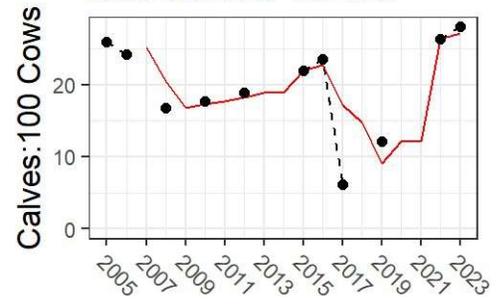
### Current Population Status & Trend

#### Total Elk Counted- HD 123

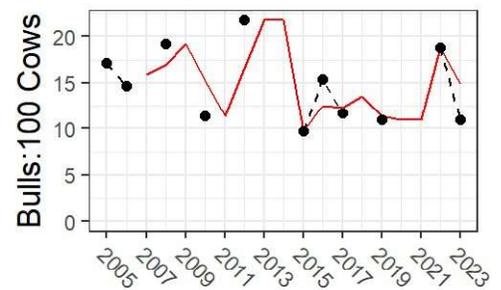


Points show observations from survey flights and the solid red line shows a 3-year moving average.

#### Recruitment- HD 123



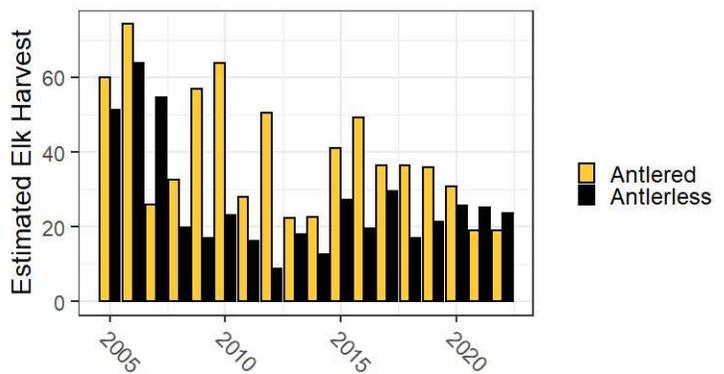
#### Bulls:100 Cows- HD 123



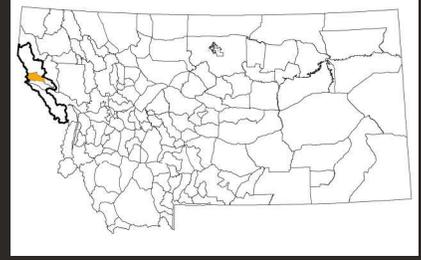
### Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

Hunting District	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
123	2006	747	5,208
	2008	667	5,835
	2010	683	5,704
	2012	663	4,985
	2014	617	4,543
	2016	810	6,174
	2018	771	6,276
	2020	520	4,473
	2022	509	4,045

#### Elk Harvest- HD 123



# HD 123



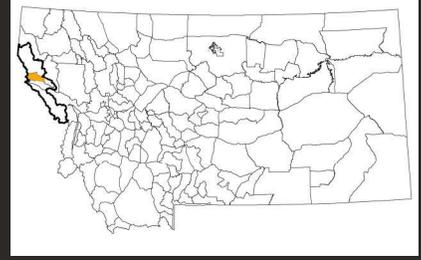
## Lower Clark Fork Elk Management Unit

### Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain spring aerial survey counts between 360-510 elk observed	3 year average of elk counts is within goal range for population size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> </ul>
	If outside goal range, population is trending toward goal range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider adjusting carnivore harvest and monitor effects on population status and trend</li> </ul>
	3-year average calf recruitment is 25 calves:100 cows or greater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess calf recruitment through surveys</li> <li>• Use GPS collars to monitor adult female survival</li> </ul>
Bull:cow ratio is 10:100 or greater	3-year average bull:cow ratio is meeting or exceeding minimum bull:cow threshold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with land management agencies to improve forage capacity on public lands</li> <li>• Use antlered harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> </ul>



# HD 123



## Lower Clark Fork Elk Management Unit

### Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain or increase elk use of publicly accessible lands	Proportion of elk observed on public or publicly accessible land stable or increasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote habitat management projects that maximize the quality of forage available to elk on summer range</li> <li>Provide input on timber management actions on public land to increase quality and quantity of forage</li> <li>Work with stakeholders to maintain or improve elk security, including addressing impacts of recreation on elk range</li> </ul>
Reduce elk use where tolerance is low	Elk use of agricultural land in the fall and winter decreases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooperate with stakeholders regarding recreation on elk range</li> <li>Work with land management agencies to identify key winter range and manage to improve habitat conditions</li> <li>Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> <li>Use a season type that accommodates elk harvest on private land</li> </ul>

### Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maximize bull hunting opportunity	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use antlerless and antlered harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structures and/or quotas</li> </ul>
Maintain a diversity of bull age classes	25% or more of bulls harvested have 6 or more points on one antler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider adjusting carnivore harvest and monitor effects on elk vital rates</li> </ul>
Provide opportunity to harvest antlerless elk	Maintain or increase antlerless elk harvest opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with land management agencies to improve habitat</li> </ul>

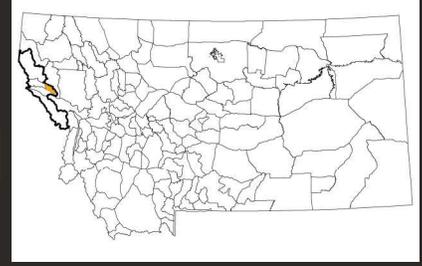


# HD 124

Size: 131 mi<sup>2</sup>

Primary Habitat: Forest

Public Ownership: 65%



## Lower Clark Fork Elk Management Unit

### District Summary

Hunting District 124 is in the northwest part of the state within Sanders County. The western boundary runs approximately through Cherry Peak, Eddy Mountain, and along Outlaw Creek. The southern boundary is the Sanders/Mineral county line, approximately Pat’s Knob Road, Fourteen Mile Creek Trail, and the Clark Fork River. The eastern and northern boundary is the Clark Fork River. Primary drainages include Quartz Creek, Eddy Creek, Swamp Creek, Miller Creek, Combest Creek, and Deep Creek. The unit is characterized as rugged with strong elevational gradients and an abundance of forest cover.

Approximately two thirds of this HD is public land primarily administered by the Lolo National Forest with only 1.7 percent considered inaccessible from either a public road or waterway. Additionally, there is approximately 11,600 acres of private land (MKH Montana) open to hunting through FWP’s Block Management Program. There are some roads and trails in this unit with 81 percent of the unit within 1 mile of open roads during hunting season. Much of the land along the north side of the unit along the Clark Fork is private and some elk use this area, primarily in the winter. Recently, increased development via subdividing has occurred in elk wintering areas. Due to forest cover, aerial surveys are not conducted in this district.

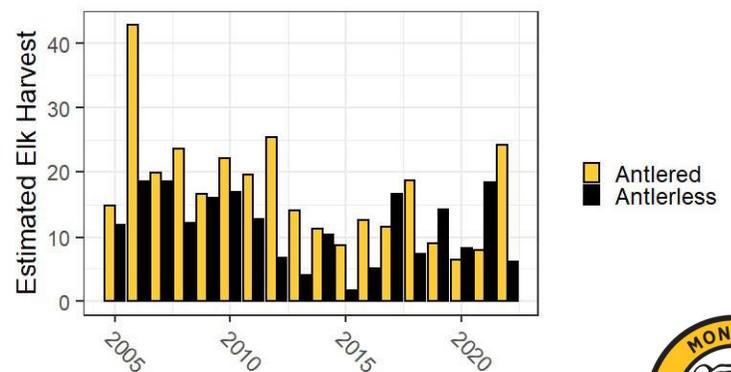
### Management Challenges:

- Developing or using a method to assess population status in this heavily forested ecosystem.
- Identifying factors limiting elk populations and distribution (e.g., habitat changes, carnivores, weather, hunting pressure, etc.).
- Evaluating changes on elk vital rates and population resulting from management actions (e.g., increased carnivore harvest, habitat improvement, permit allocation, etc.).
- Improving elk habitat (e.g., improving forage conditions) on USFS and private property.

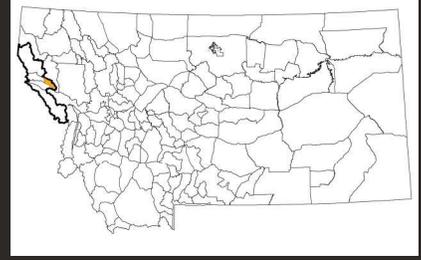
### Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

Hunting District	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
124	2006	400	3,002
	2008	482	3,860
	2010	466	4,461
	2012	404	3,006
	2014	340	2,358
	2016	394	3,003
	2018	281	1,943
	2020	235	1,616
	2022	268	1,780

Elk Harvest- HD 124



# HD 124



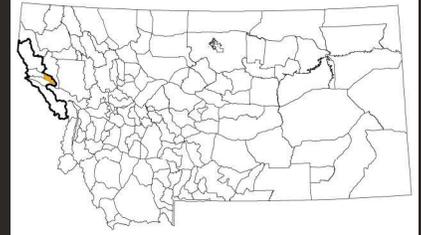
## Lower Clark Fork Elk Management Unit

### Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Develop methodology to estimate population status and trend	The developed method accurately and efficiently determines population status, population trend, and adult survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use trail cameras and information on elk demographics to produce a population estimate</li> <li>• Use GPS collars to monitor adult female survival</li> </ul>
Maintain or increase elk population	Methodologies developed from R1 elk research and harvest information indicate a stable or increasing population trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess calf recruitment through neighboring HDs' survey efforts</li> <li>• Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> <li>• Consider adjusting carnivore harvest and monitor effects on elk population status and trend</li> </ul>
Maintain or increase bull elk harvest trend	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with land management agencies to improve forage capacity on public lands</li> <li>• Use antlered harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> </ul>



# HD 124



## Lower Clark Fork Elk Management Unit

### Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain or increase elk use of public accessible lands	Proportion of elk observed on public or publicly accessible land stable or increasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote habitat management projects that maximize the quality of forage available to elk on summer range</li> <li>Provide input on timber management actions on public land to increase quality and quantity of forage</li> <li>Work with stakeholders to maintain or improve elk security, including addressing impacts of recreation on elk range</li> </ul>
Minimize elk use where tolerance is low	Elk use of agricultural land decreases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooperate with stakeholders regarding recreation on elk range</li> <li>Work with land management agencies to identify key winter range and manage</li> </ul>

### Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain a diversity of bull age classes	25% or more of bulls harvested have 6 or more points on one antler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use antlerless and antlered harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structures and/or quotas</li> </ul>
Maximize bull hunting opportunity	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	
Provide opportunity to harvest antlerless elk	Maintain or increase antlerless elk harvest opportunity	

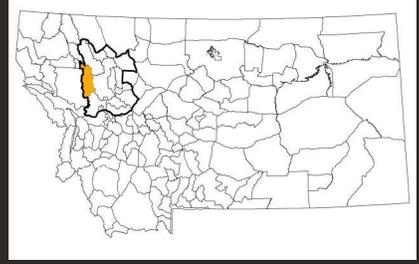


# HD 130

Size: 672 mi<sup>2</sup>

Primary Habitat: Forest

Public Ownership: 90%



## Bob Marshall Elk Management Unit

### District Summary

Hunting District 130 is in northwest Montana in Lake and Missoula counties. The Swan River flows through the center of the district south to north, and the district is bounded by the crest of the Mission Range to the west and the Swan Crest to the east. The district includes portions of the Mission Mountain Wilderness. The district is heavily timbered, and timber extraction plays an important role in the management and ecology of the district. Elk in this district migrate altitudinally between summer areas in the alpine and wintering areas along the valley floor and foothills.

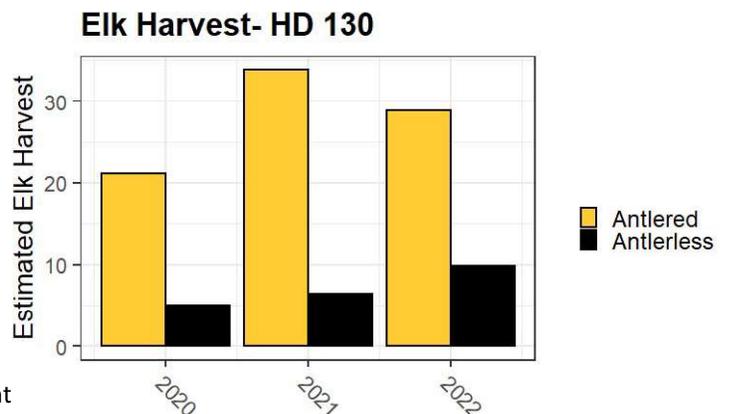
Public hunting access is excellent, but dense forest cover makes for challenging hunting conditions. Public land accounts for over 90 percent of this district, including USFS, State Trust Lands, and FWP's North Swan WMA (1,886 acres). Due to forest cover, aerial surveys are not conducted in this district.

### Management Challenges:

- Aerial surveys are not possible in this HD due to extensive tree cover.
- Developing an effective survey methodology for forested landscapes.
- Evaluating changes on elk vital rates, population status and trajectory, or response to management actions (e.g., increased carnivore harvest, habitat improvement).
- Development trends within the Swan Valley may lead to increasing conflict on wintering range including increases in game damage, habitat fragmentation, and concentration of elk around anthropogenic sources of feed.

### Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

Hunting District	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
130	2020	1,067	8,273
	2022	887	6,760

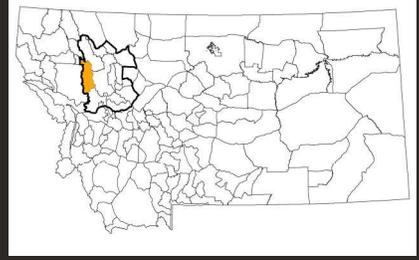


HD 130's boundary changed in 2020. Data presented represent the current boundary.



# HD 130

*Bob Marshall Elk Management Unit*



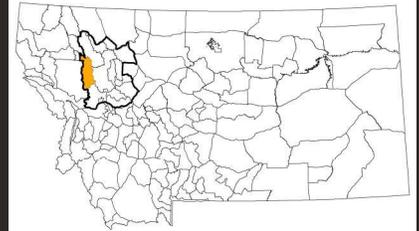
## Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
<p>Develop methodology to estimate population status and trend</p>	<p>The developed method accurately and efficiently determines population status, population trend, and adult survival</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use trail cameras and information on elk demographics to produce a population estimate</li> <li>• Use GPS collars to monitor adult female survival</li> <li>• Assess calf recruitment through neighboring HDs' survey efforts</li> <li>• Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> </ul>
<p>Maintain or increase elk population</p>	<p>Methodologies developed from R1 elk research and harvest information indicate a stable or increasing population trend</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider adjusting carnivore harvest and monitor effects on elk vital rates</li> <li>• Collaborate with land management partners to promote habitat management projects that maximize the quality of forage available to elk on summer range</li> </ul>
<p>Maintain or increase bull elk harvest trend</p>	<p>5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide input on timber management actions on public land to increase quality and quantity of forage</li> <li>• Work with land management agencies to improve forage capacity on public lands</li> <li>• Use antlered harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> </ul>



# HD 130

## Bob Marshall Elk Management Unit



### Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain or increase elk use of public accessible lands	Proportion of elk observed on public or publicly accessible land stable or increasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with land management parties to promote habitat management projects that maximize the quality of forage available to elk on summer range</li> <li>Provide input on timber management actions on public land to increase quality and quantity of forage</li> </ul>
Maximize elk use of North Swan WMA	Elk are observed on WMA during winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with public land managers to maintain or improve elk security</li> <li>Implement winter range habitat improvement projects on the North Swan WMA</li> </ul>
Minimize elk use where tolerance is low	Elk use of agricultural land decreases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with land management agencies to identify key winter range and manage</li> </ul>

### Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain a diversity of bull age classes	25% or more of bulls harvested have 6 or more points on one antler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use antlerless and antlered harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structures and/or quotas</li> </ul>
Maximize bull hunting opportunity	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	
Provide opportunity to harvest antlerless elk	Maintain or increase antlerless elk harvest opportunity	

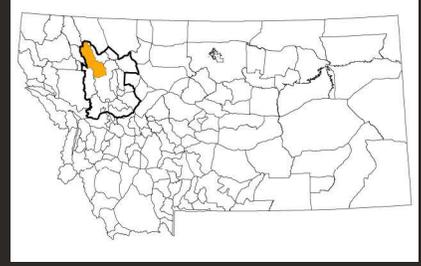


# HD 140

Size: 878 mi<sup>2</sup>

Primary Habitat: Forest

Public Ownership: 93%



## Bob Marshall Elk Management Unit

### District Summary

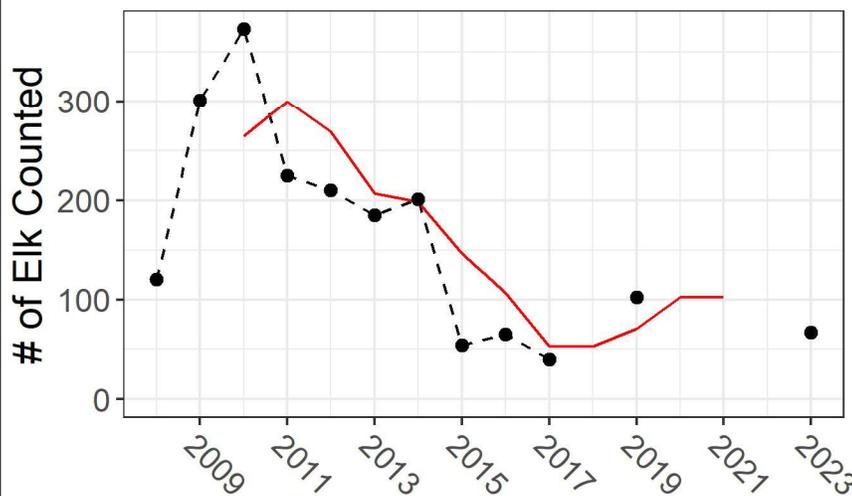
Hunting District 140 is in northwest Montana in Flathead County and lies between the Swan Range to the west and Flathead Range to the east. The South Fork of the Flathead River and Hungry Horse Reservoir bisect the district north to south. Terrain is mountainous and forested. Elk are found in small, isolated herds and are largely resident, migrating altitudinally between summering areas in the alpine and wintering areas along the South Fork River bottom and on Southwest facing slopes between Dry Parks and Firefighter Mountain. Public hunting access is excellent, but terrain and forest cover make for a challenging hunt. This district is 97 percent USFS with Forest Service roads traversing the length of the district along either side of Hungry Horse Reservoir. Annual surveys via helicopter occur in the spring to assess recruitment.

### Management Challenges:

- Area trend surveys in this district account for only a small portion of available winter range.
- Counts are highly variable due to green-up conditions at the time of survey meaning counts from surveys must be interpreted over a series of years, rather than responding to year-to-year changes in observed numbers.
- Remoteness of much of this HD limits opportunities to evaluate elk movements and demographics and to increase predator harvest.

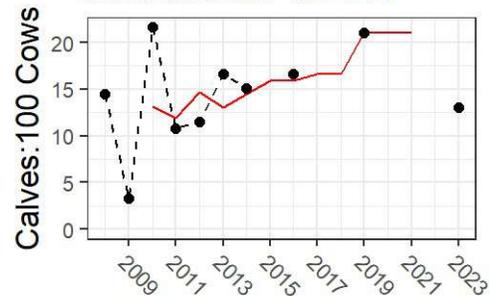
### Current Population Status & Trend

#### Total Elk Counted- HD 140

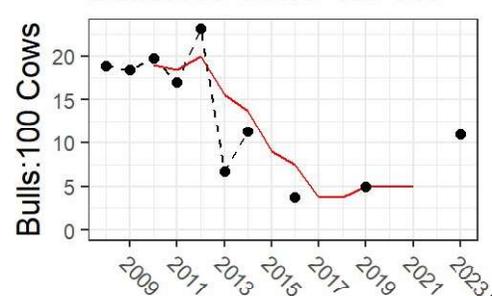


Points show observations from survey flights and the solid red line shows a 3-year moving average.

#### Recruitment- HD 140

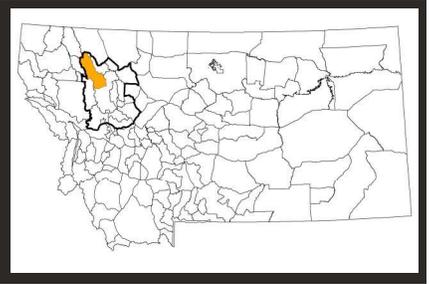


#### Bulls:100 Cows- HD 140



# HD 140

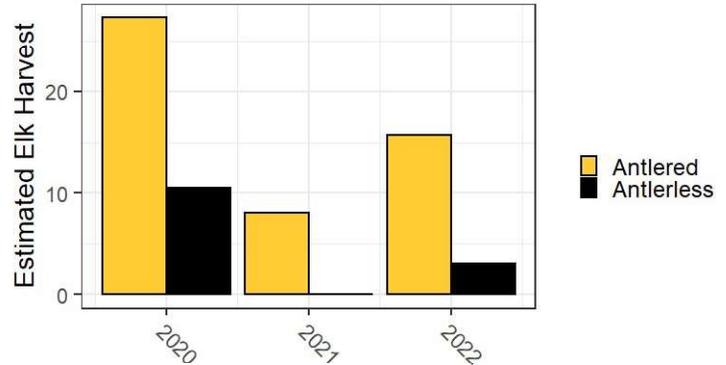
## Bob Marshall Elk Management Unit



### Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

Elk Harvest- HD 140

Hunting District	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
140	2020	522	3,746
	2022	431	3,275



HD 140's boundary changed in 2020. Data presented represent the current HD boundary.

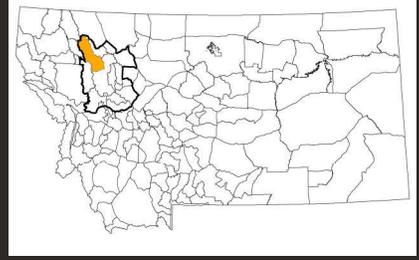
### Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain spring aerial survey counts between 250-350 elk observed	3-year average of spring elk counts is within goal range for population size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> <li>• Use GPS collars to monitor adult female survival</li> <li>• Consider adjusting carnivore harvest and monitor effects on elk vital rates</li> </ul>
	3-year average calf recruitment is 25 calves:100 cows or greater	
	Methodologies developed from R1 elk research and harvest information indicate population is trending toward goal range	
Develop methodology to estimate population status and trend	The developed method accurately and efficiently determines population status, population trend, and adult survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with land management agencies to improve forage capacity on public lands</li> <li>• Use antlered harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> </ul>



# HD 140

## Bob Marshall Elk Management Unit



### Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain elk distribution across available habitat throughout the year	Elk continue to winter in the South Fork Drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote habitat management projects that open canopy cover and remove post-fire deadfall on summer range to maximize the quality and quantity of summer forage</li> <li>Provide input on timber management actions on public land to increase quality and quantity of forage and protect thermal cover and snow-intercept on winter range</li> <li>Work with public land managers to maintain or improve elk security</li> </ul>

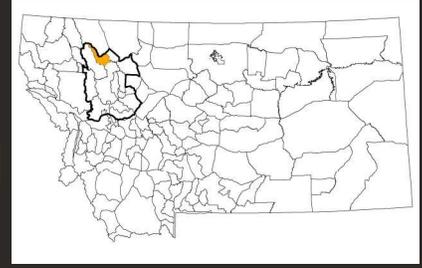
### Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maximize bull hunting opportunity	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use antlerless and antlered harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structures and/or quotas</li> <li>Work with land management agencies to improve habitat</li> </ul>
Maintain a diversity of bull age classes	25% or more of bulls harvested have 6 or more points on one antler	
Provide opportunity to harvest antlerless elk	Maintain or increase antlerless elk harvest opportunity	



# HD 141

Size: 339 mi<sup>2</sup>  
 Primary Habitat: Forest  
 Public Ownership: 98%



## Bob Marshall Elk Management Unit

### District Summary

Hunting District 141 is in northwest Montana in Flathead County and lies largely within the Great Bear Wilderness. The district includes portions of the Flathead and Lewis and Clark Range and much of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River drainage. US Highway 2 and Glacier National Park form the district’s northern border, and the district is bounded to the east by the Continental Divide and to the west by the crest of the Flathead Range. Terrain is mountainous and heavily timbered. Wilderness designation and forest fire history are very important in the ecology and management of elk in this HD.

This HD is 98 percent USFS with excellent access limited largely by remoteness and ruggedness of the terrain and the means by which it must be accessed—either by foot or livestock. Schafer Meadows airstrip, located in the heart of the Great Bear Wilderness, provides access via charter flight to the district’s interior. Due to forest cover, aerial surveys are not conducted in this district.

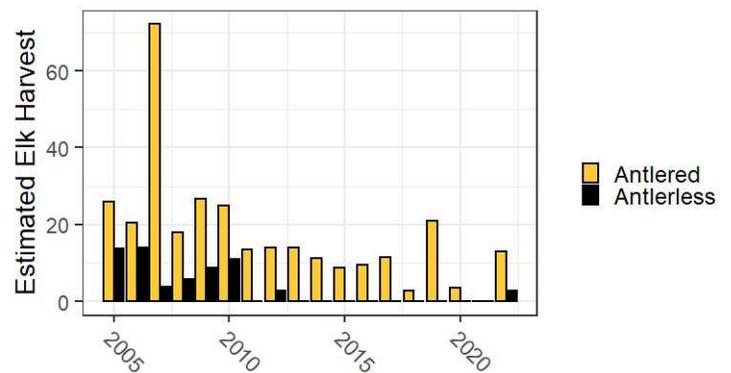
### Management Challenges:

- Aerial surveys are not possible in this HD due to extensive tree cover.
- Wilderness designation and remoteness of much of this HD limits opportunities to manage habitat, increase predator harvest, or evaluate elk movements and demographics.

### Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

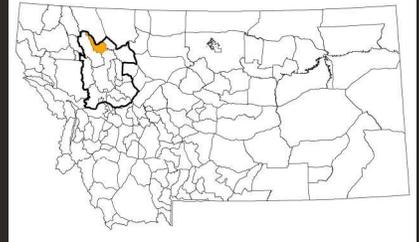
Hunting District	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
141	2006	200	1,522
	2008	327	2,848
	2010	274	1,957
	2012	192	1,418
	2014	175	1,318
	2016	137	913
	2018	119	827
	2020	89	1,062
	2022	108	717

Elk Harvest- HD 141



# HD 141

## Bob Marshall Elk Management Unit



### Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain or increase elk population	Methodologies developed from R1 elk research and harvest information indicate a stable or increasing population trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> <li>• Consider adjusting carnivore harvest and monitor effects on elk vital rates (use vital rates obtained from South Fork surveys [HDs 140 &amp; 150])</li> </ul>
	3-year bull harvest trend increasing toward long-term average	
Maintain or increase bull elk harvest trend	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with land management agencies to improve forage capacity on public lands</li> <li>• Use antlered harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or</li> </ul>

### Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain elk distribution across available habitat throughout the year	Elk continue to reside year-round in the Middle Fork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote habitat management projects that maximize the quality of forage available to elk on summer range</li> <li>• Provide input on timber management actions on public land to increase quality and quantity of forage on summer range</li> </ul>

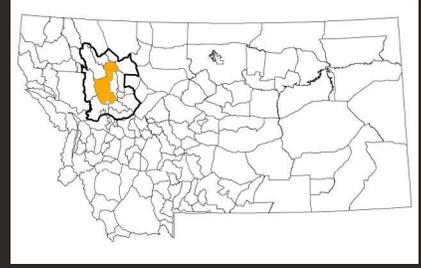
### Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maximize bull hunting opportunity	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless and antlered harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structures and/or quotas</li> </ul>
Maintain a diversity of bull age classes	25% or more of bulls harvested have 6 or more points on one antler	
Provide opportunity to harvest antlerless elk	Maintain or increase antlerless elk harvest opportunity	



# HD 150

Size: 1,169 mi<sup>2</sup>  
 Primary Habitat: Forest  
 Public Ownership: 99.8%



## Bob Marshall Elk Management Unit

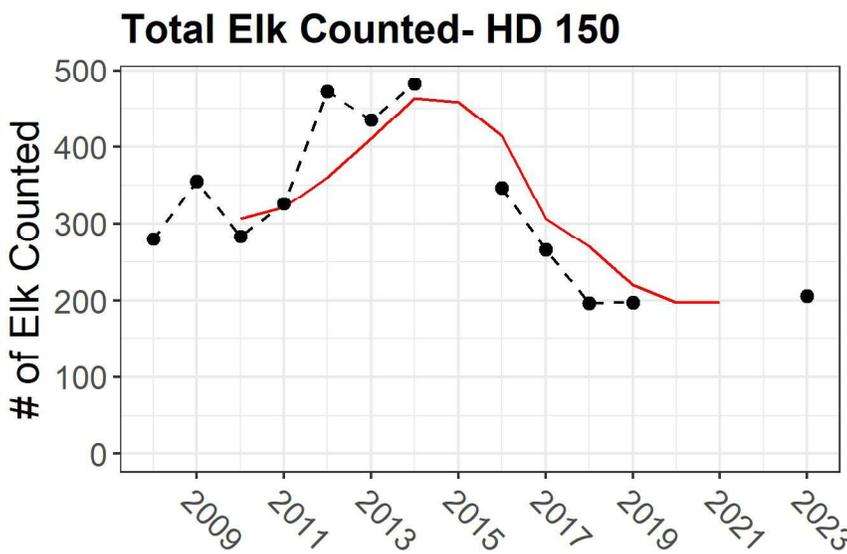
### District Summary

Hunting District 150 is in NW Montana within Flathead, Powell, and Missoula counties and lies almost entirely within the Bob Marshall and Great Bear Wilderness. The HD encompasses the headwaters of the Flathead's South and Middle Fork rivers as well as the Spotted Bear River. The HD is bounded to the west by the Swan Crest, to the south by the Bob Marshall Wilderness boundary, and to the east by the Continental Divide. The northern boundary traverses drainages and trails between Inspiration Point in the west, to Sarah Peak and Mid Mountain in the North. This is truly a wilderness unit in the heart of one of North America's largest wilderness complexes. Wilderness status and forest fire history are very important in the ecology and management of elk in this HD. The HD is 99.8 percent USFS with excellent access limited largely by remoteness and ruggedness of the terrain, and much of it is accessed by foot or with livestock.

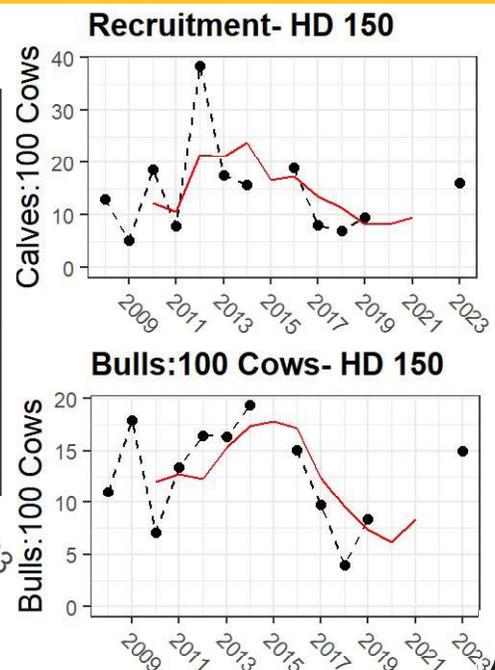
### Management Challenges:

- Area trend surveys in this district account for only a small portion of available winter range.
- Counts are highly variable due to green-up conditions at the time of survey meaning counts from surveys must be interpreted over a series of years, rather than responding to year-to-year changes in observed numbers.
- Wilderness status and remoteness of much of this HD limits opportunities to manage habitat, increase predator harvest, or evaluate elk movements and demographics.
- Movement of elk between HD 150 and districts to the south and east merits better understanding to effectively manage elk distribution.

### Current Population Status & Trend

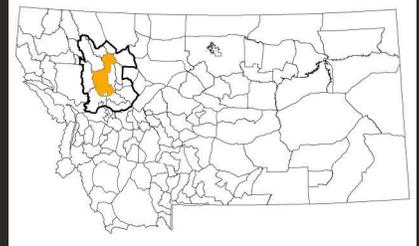


Points show observations from survey flights and the solid red line shows a 3-year moving average.



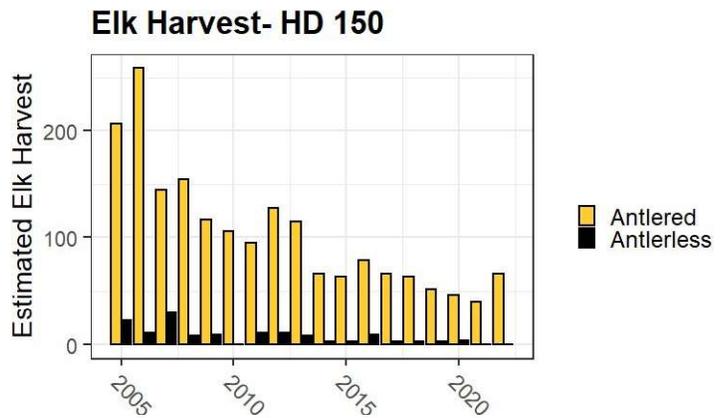
# HD 150

## Bob Marshall Elk Management Unit



### Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

Hunting District	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
150	2006	915	6,486
	2008	628	4,367
	2010	577	3,860
	2012	679	4,453
	2014	453	3,271
	2016	532	3,834
	2018	443	3,186
	2020	371	2,389
	2022	371	2,673



Hunter harvest and effort data were reconciled to current HD boundary.

### Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain spring aerial survey counts between 450-630 elk observed	3-year average of elk counts is within goal range for population size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> <li>• Consider adjusting carnivore harvest and monitor effects on elk vital rates</li> <li>• Use GPS collars to monitor adult female survival</li> </ul>
	3-year average calf recruitment is 25 calves:100 cows or greater	
Methodologies developed from R1 elk research and harvest information indicate population is within or trending toward goal range		
Bull:Cow ratio is 10:100 or greater	3-year average bull:cow ratio is meeting or exceeding minimum bull:cow threshold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlered harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> </ul>

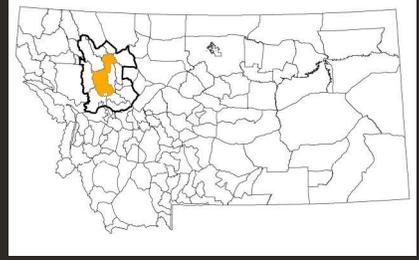
### Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain elk distribution across available habitat throughout the year	Influence of hunting pressure on seasonal elk movement is understood and incorporated into management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use data from GPS collars within this HD and adjacent HDs to evaluate elk movements and timing relative to season structure and hunting pressure</li> </ul>



# HD 150

## Bob Marshall Elk Management Unit



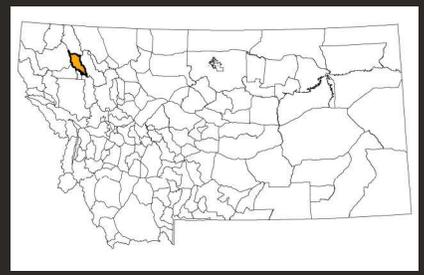
### Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maximize bull hunting opportunity	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless and antlered harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structures and/or quotas</li> <li>• Consider adjusting carnivore harvest and monitor effects on elk vital rates</li> <li>• Work with land management agencies to improve habitat</li> <li>• Use backcountry early rifle opportunity to provide a unique backcountry hunting opportunity when consistent with HD population goals</li> </ul>
Maintain a diversity of bull age classes	25% or more of bulls harvested have 6 points or more on one antler	
Provide opportunity to harvest antlerless elk	Maintain or increase antlerless elk harvest opportunity	



# HD 170

Size: 362 mi<sup>2</sup>  
 Primary Habitat: Forest  
 Public Ownership: 10%



## Flathead River Elk Management Unit

### District Summary

Hunting District 170 encompasses the Flathead Valley and Swan Valley floors and comprises largely private land surrounding the metropolitan area of Kalispell and adjacent cities. Agriculture was once the principal land use, but since the 1990s the region has experienced accelerating growth and subdivision. State Trust Lands around Spencer Mountain, the Ray Kuhns WMA (1,557 acres), the North Shore WMA (426 acres), and the 800-acre Bad Rock Canyon WMA provide public hunting opportunity. Bad Rock Canyon WMA is primarily a youth hunting opportunity with advanced written permission required. Elk are distributed to the east and west of Kalispell including the West Valley herd that moves between the valley floor and timber lands to the west, and a handful of small but growing herds along Montana Highway 206 east of Kalispell.

The bulk (89 percent) of HD 170 is in private ownership with limited hunting access. A weapons restriction zone, in place due to safety concerns about housing density, contains almost one-quarter of the district. Elk harvest is largely opportunistic, limited by small acreage and access to private property. Current elk management objectives are to maintain or decrease elk numbers around Kalispell, but to promote growth of the herd residing to the southeast around Mud Lake. Montana Highway 35 and Lake Blaine Road provide the dividing line between these two zones. Increasingly, as the valley develops, habitat fragmentation will threaten connectivity and movement corridors, relegating elk to increasingly smaller parcels and marginal habitat, as well as limit FWP's ability to effectively manage the herd through hunt season structure. Game damage complaints have been increasing. Due to forest cover and the predominant urban areas, aerial surveys are not conducted in this district.

### Management Challenges:

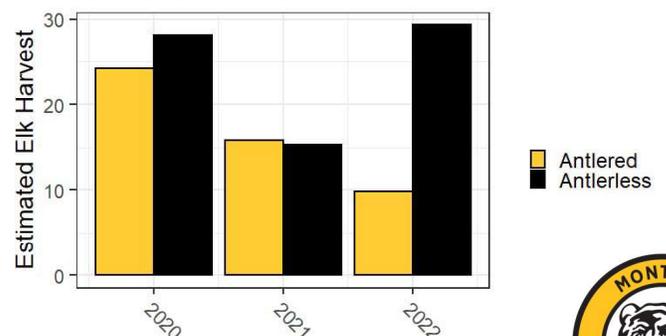
- Aerial surveys are not possible in this HD due to extensive tree cover and housing density.
- Residential development is impacting the ability of the valley to support free-ranging elk and limiting FWP's ability to effectively manage elk with hunting.
- Critical information on elk movement and habitat use is needed to effectively manage the valley herd and protect movement corridors.

### Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

Hunting District	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
170	2020	324	2,747
	2022	455	3,422

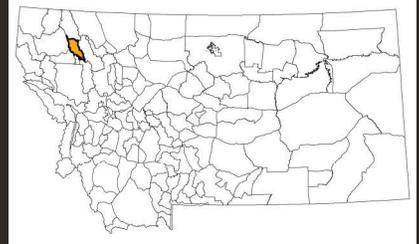
HD 170's boundary changed in 2020. Data presented represent the current HD boundary.

Elk Harvest- HD 170



# HD 170

## Flathead River Elk Management Unit



### Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Develop methodology to estimate population status and trend	The developed method accurately and efficiently determines population status, population trend, and adult survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop ground-based survey methodology to opportunistically count and classify valley elk herd to provide minimum counts and demographics. Utilize network of landowners to alert area biologist when elk are in the open and easily observed</li> <li>• Use GPS collars to monitor adult female survival</li> <li>• Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas</li> </ul>
Maintain or reduce size of valley elk herds (MT Hwy. 206 herd north of Lake Blaine Road and west of MT Hwy. 35, and West Valley Herd off of Farm to Market Rd.)	Methodologies developed from R1 elk research and harvest information indicate a stable or decreasing population trend	
Maintain or increase Mud Lake herd (south of Lake Blaine Road and east of MT Hwy. 35)	Methodologies developed from R1 elk research and harvest information indicate a stable or increasing population trend	

### Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Minimize elk use where tolerance is low	Elk groups are not concentrated on a single property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with community and municipalities to identify and protect areas of critical habitat</li> <li>• Use GPS collars to identify movement corridors and critical habitat</li> <li>• Work with the community and municipalities to identify and protect movement corridors</li> <li>• Use GPS collars to identify movement corridors and critical habitat</li> </ul>
Maintain landscape connectivity and the ability of elk to move across the valley	Movement corridors are identified and secured	

### Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maximize bull hunting opportunity	5-year average bull harvest trend increasing toward or above long-term average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antlerless and antlered harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structures and/or quotas</li> </ul>
Provide opportunity to harvest antlerless elk	Maintain or increase antlerless elk harvest opportunity	
Promote hunter recruitment and retention	Youth and disabled hunters have broader hunting opportunities relative to the general public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to utilize Bad Rock Canyon WMA as a Youth and PTHFV-only opportunity</li> </ul>

